

Message Text

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12
ACTION IO-10

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R 290713Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7726
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, TU
SUBJ: TURKISH REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO REPLACE SPAIN ON
GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION
(ILO)

SUMMARY. IN A CIRCULARNOTE OF JANUARY 15 TURKISH MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTED U.S. SUPPORT FOR TURKEY'S
CANDIDACY ON THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO. IN INFORMAL
DISCUSSION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, OFFICIAL CONCERNED WAS ADVISED
THAT U.S. WOULD BE PLEASED TO SUPPORT TURKEY IF IT WERE THE
CANDIDATE IN THE SUB-REGION. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE
POLITICAL NATURE OF THE CANDIDACY OF THIS SUB-REGION, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE ADVICE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MIMEOGRAPHED CIRCULAR NOTE OF JANUARY 15 TURKISH
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTED U.S. SUPPORT FOR TURKEY
TO BECOME MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO IN ONE OF
THE SEATS ALLOCATED TO THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SUB-REGION OF THE
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WESTERN GROUP. THE NOTE STRESSED THAT TURKEY HAD NOT BEEN A

MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY SINCE 1957 AND IN VIEW OF THE
"INCREASED RELEVANCE OF THE PROBLEM OF MIGRANT WORKERS"
MEMBERSHIP ON THE GOVERNING BODY "HAS BECOME A NECESSITY"
TO TURKEY.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JANUARY 24 ON
DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, TURKISH REQUEST FOR SUPPORT WAS INFORMALLY
RAISED. THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN THE POLITICAL SECTION WHO DRAFTED
THE NOTE WAS INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT U.S. IN SUCH CASES WOULD BE
PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDATE SELECTED BY THE SUB-REGION IN
QUESTION. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT TURKEY
WAS SEEKING THE SEAT NOW HELD BY SPAIN; TURKEY WITHDREW FROM
THE CONTEST LAST TIME IN FAVOR OF SPAIN.

3. THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL FURTHER ADVISED THAT SPAIN AND PORTUGAL
WOULD SUPPORT TURKEY'S CANDIDATURE. OTHER STATES MEMBERS
IN THE SUB-REGION INCLUDE, IN ADDITION, MALTA, GREECE, AND CYPRUS.
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT OTHER CANDIDACIES, FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL STATED SOME EVIDENCE FROM VIENNA INDICATED
CYPRUS MIGHT PUT UP ITS CANDIDACY. IN SUCH A CASE, MALTA COULD
BECOME A KEY FACTOR. SHOULD MALTA SUPPORT TURKEY'S CANDIDACY,
AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FROM SPAIN
AND PORTUGAL HELD, THEN TURKEY WOULD PROBABLY OBTAIN MAJORITY
VOTE OF THE SUB-REGION. HOWEVER, SHOULD MALTA SUPPORT CYPRUS'
CANDIDACY, A STALEMATE COULD MATERIALIZE. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL
POLITICAL DELICACY OF THE PROBLEM IF SUCH A STALEMATE SHOULD
MATERIALIZE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.
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